Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
159
US $2.25
CAN $2.65
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
Anniversary 2006
15th
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA
TEAM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 159, April, 2006. Published every 4 weeks, twice in Feb., by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.25 in the U.S.; $2.65 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $29.25 for 13 issues; $34.45 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2006. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

KKRASH!

READY TO CALL IT A DAY?

I HAVEN'T EVEN *STARTED*, HEDGEHOG!

IN CASE YOU HADN'T *NOTICED*, PAL --I'M *NOT* ONE OF THE *SHINY METALLIC MODELS* TRASHING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!

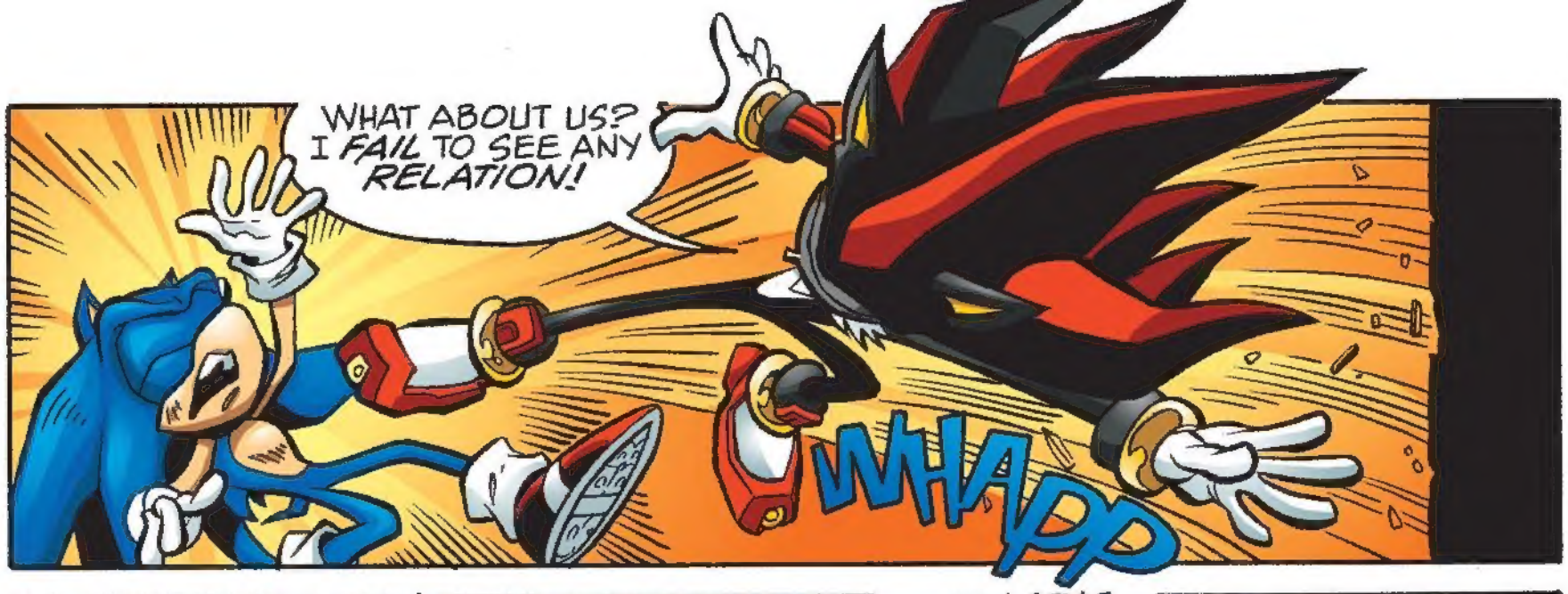
WHUMPH!

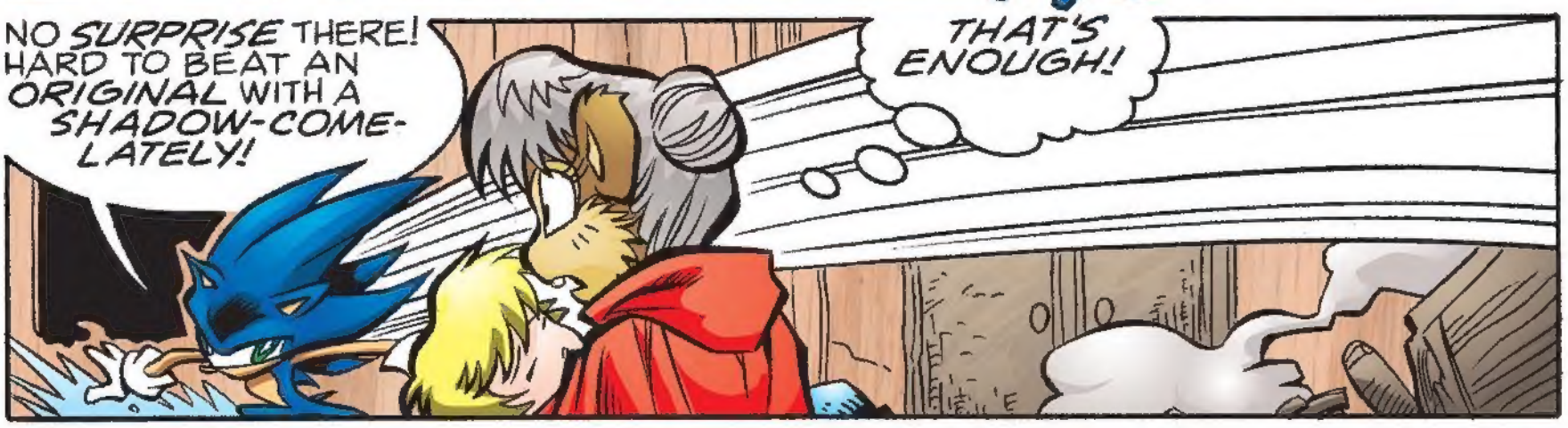
THEN HOW ELSE TO EXPLAIN THEIR VERY *LIKENESS* OF YOU--WHICH IMPLIES AT LEAST SOME *CONNECTION!*

YEAH, WELL--

--RESEMBLANCE DOESN'T *EQUAL* RELATION! TAKE *US!*

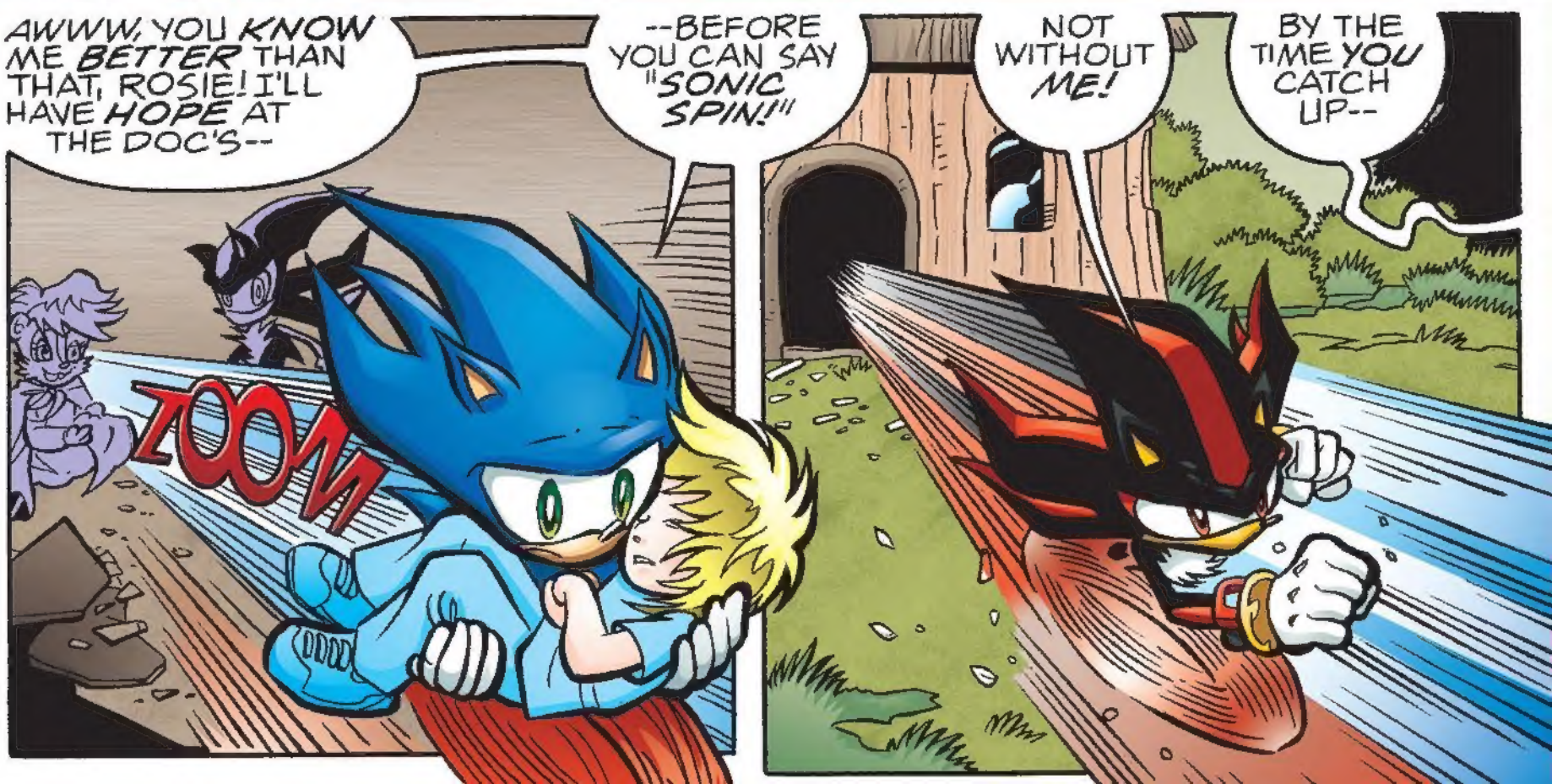
WHAM


WHAT ABOUT US? I FAIL TO SEE ANY RELATION!
WHAPP


NO SURPRISE THERE! HARD TO BEAT AN ORIGINAL WITH A SHADOW-COME-LATELY!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

IN CASE YOU TWO FOOLS HADN'T NOTICED, THERE'S A LITTLE GIRL HERE LYING INJURED--
--AND MOST CERTAINLY IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION!

ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR ROUGH-HOUSING WITH SONIC REPLICANTS-- *
--INSTEAD OF CARING ABOUT THOSE CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE!
*A SOMEWHAT BIASED POV OF EVENTS IN OUR LAST ISSUE!


AWWW, YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT, ROSIE! I'LL HAVE HOPE AT THE DOC'S--
--BEFORE YOU CAN SAY "SONIC SPIN!"
ZOOM
NOT WITHOUT ME!
BY THE TIME YOU CATCH UP--

"--SHE'LL BE WITH DOC AT THE CASTLE!..."

OUTER SHELL CONSTRUCTED OF A SPECIAL IRON-TITANIUM ALLOY! ITS HARDWARE WOULD BE STATE-OF-THE-ART, WERE IT NOT FOR THE NANITES! EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED WERE BUILT TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM!

SO NATURALLY, WE DESIGNED THE METAL SONIC TROOPERS IN THE IMAGE OF OUR GREATEST WARRIOR-- WHOM WE BELIEVED HAD FALLEN IN THE LINE OF DUTY!*

* SIR CHARLES IS REFERRING TO EVENTS DEPICTED IN SONIC #125

...SOB...WHAT ON MOBIUS WAS I THINKING?! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GONE ALONG WITH THIS-- THIS INSANITY!

IT WASN'T YOUR IDEA INITIALLY, SIR! YOU HAVE NOTHING AT ALL TO BE ASHAMED OF!

BUT WE CREATED THEM --AND NOW WE HAVE TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM!

IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING AT ALL FROM YOU--

"--IT'S NOT THE INVENTION THAT CAUSES THE PROBLEM, BUT THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE OPERATOR UTILIZES IT."

LOOK AT THEM!!! THE MOST FEARSOME DESTRUCTIVE FORCE YET UNLEASHED ON THE PLANET--

--AND I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

HOW CAN THIS BE?

YET THEY DESTROYED MY COMMAND CENTER*--AND WHATEVER SOURCE ACTIVATED THEM ALSO COMPROMISED MY SYSTEM SAFEGUARDS!**

*LAST ISSUE, **SONIC # 157.

NOW THEY'RE INVADING KNOTHOLE--WREAKING HAVOC ON MY MOST HATED OF ENEMIES!

ASTOUNDING!

SUCH DISREGARD FOR LIFE, LIMB, AND PROPERTY! WHAT SUPREME IRONY--

--THAT I, WHO MADE ALL OTHERS TREMBLE, SHOULD NOW BE REDUCED TO THEIR LEVEL--

"--DEPENDENT UPON THAT BLASTED HEDGE-HOG TO SAVE THE DAY..."

I WAS CREATED FOR A PURPOSE STILL UNKNOWN TO ME!

WHAT I DO KNOW IS THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO SENTIENTS WHO HAVE EVER EXPRESSED COMPASSION FOR ME!

I FAILED LONG AGO TO SAVE MARIA--*

*AS SADLY RECORDED IN SONIC # 98.

--BUT SURELY THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO TO SAVE HOPE!!!

HEY!!!

THOUGH I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT ENABLES ME TO CREATE THE PORTAL--

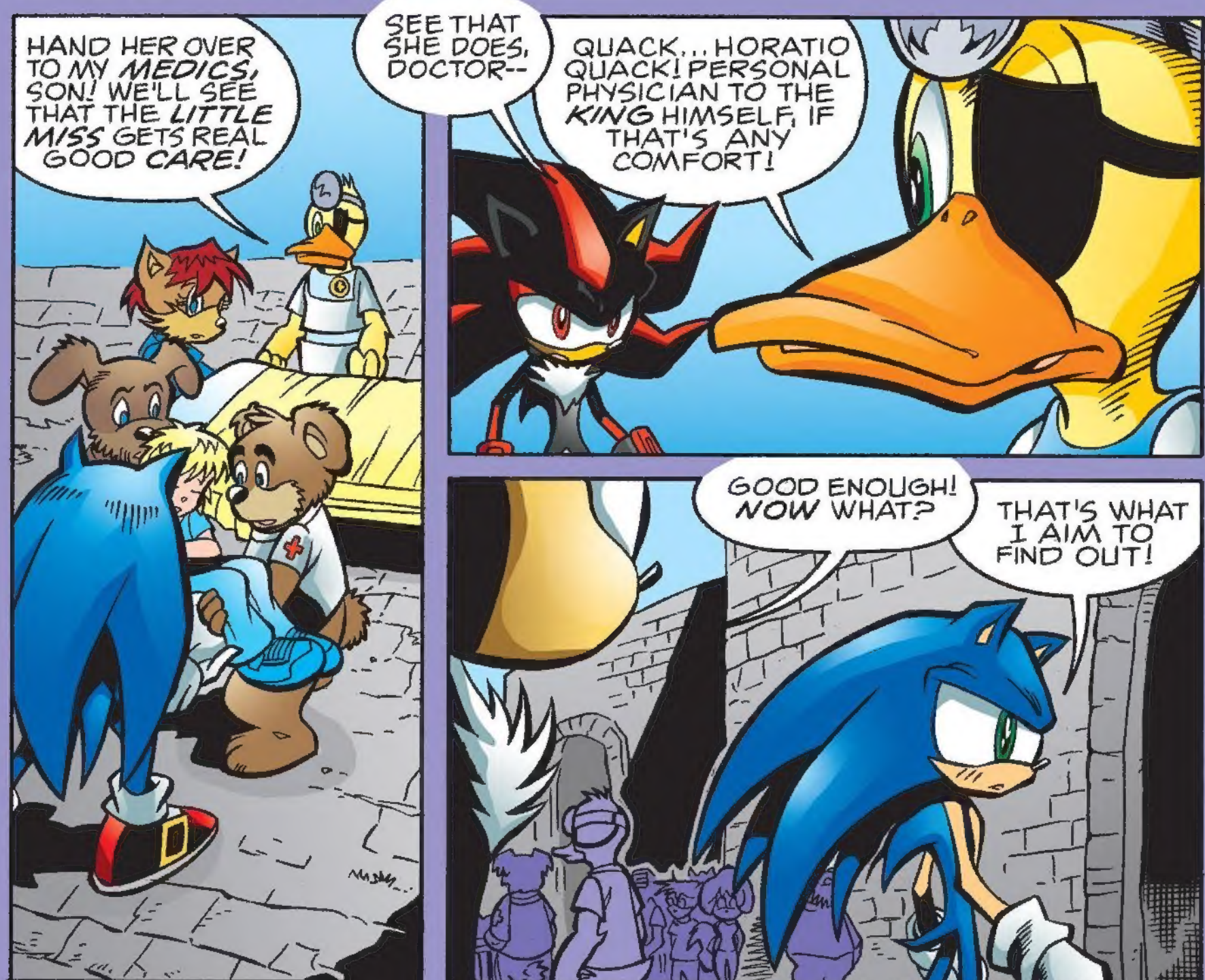
BTOOM

"--AT THIS MOMENT, THAT IS THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS!"

...CHAOS CONTROL!?!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT CASTLE ACORN-- FIVE MINUTES AGO...
ANY SIGN OF THE INVADERS, COMMANDER D'COOLETTE?
EVERYONE TO THEIR STATIONS, MATES!
NOT YET, SIRE! CONSIDERING ZHE TRACKING SYSTEM SHOWS ZHEM MOVING TRES FAST ALA SONIC--
--ZHE REAL MYSTERY IS WHY ZHEY HAD YET TO BE SIGHTED! WHY ZHE DELAY?
YOU SPOKE TOO SOON, COMMANDER!
THERE THEY ARE-- TEARING THROUGH KNOTHOLE CENTER ITSELF!
SO MUCH FOR THE JAMMING FAIL-SAFES!
WHAT TH--?!!!
BTOOM!

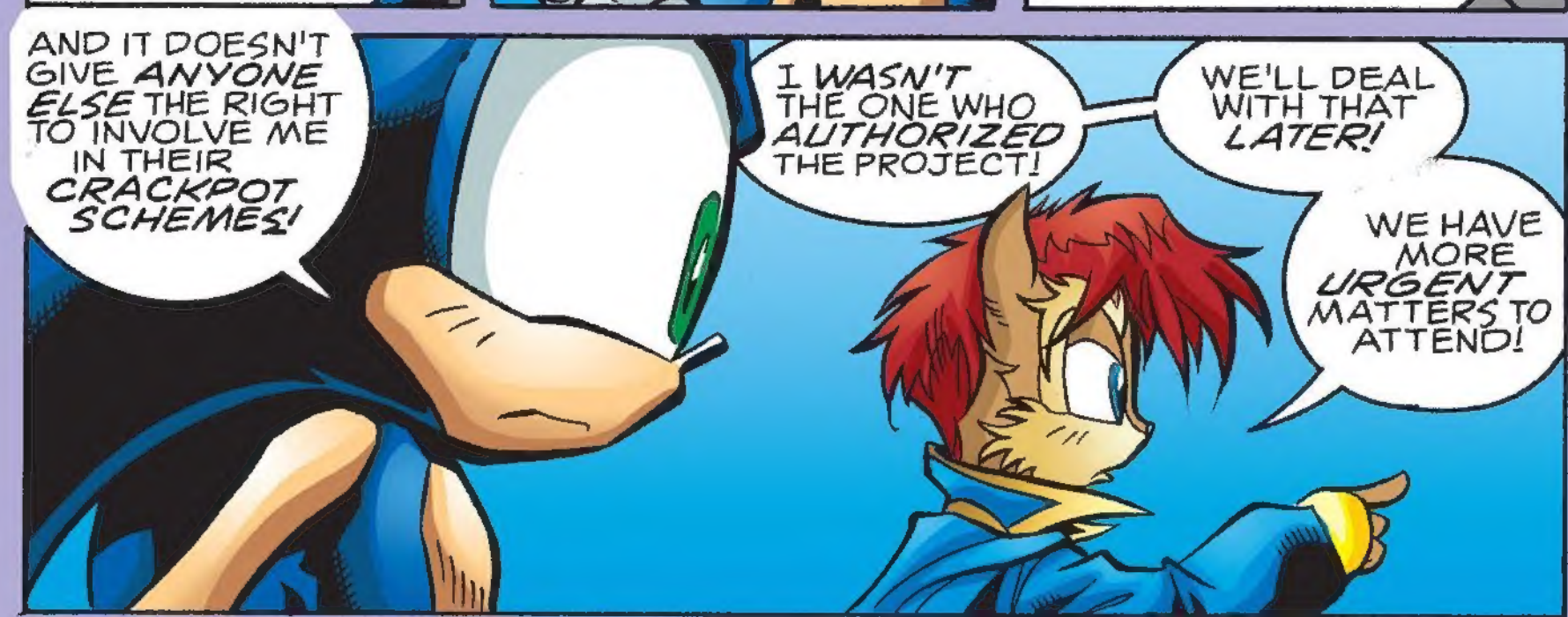
SONIC!
HOW DO I EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT FATHER MEANT WELL?
SKREECH!
AND SHADOW! BUT HOW--?!?
YOU!!! WE NEED THE DOC --AND FAST!!!

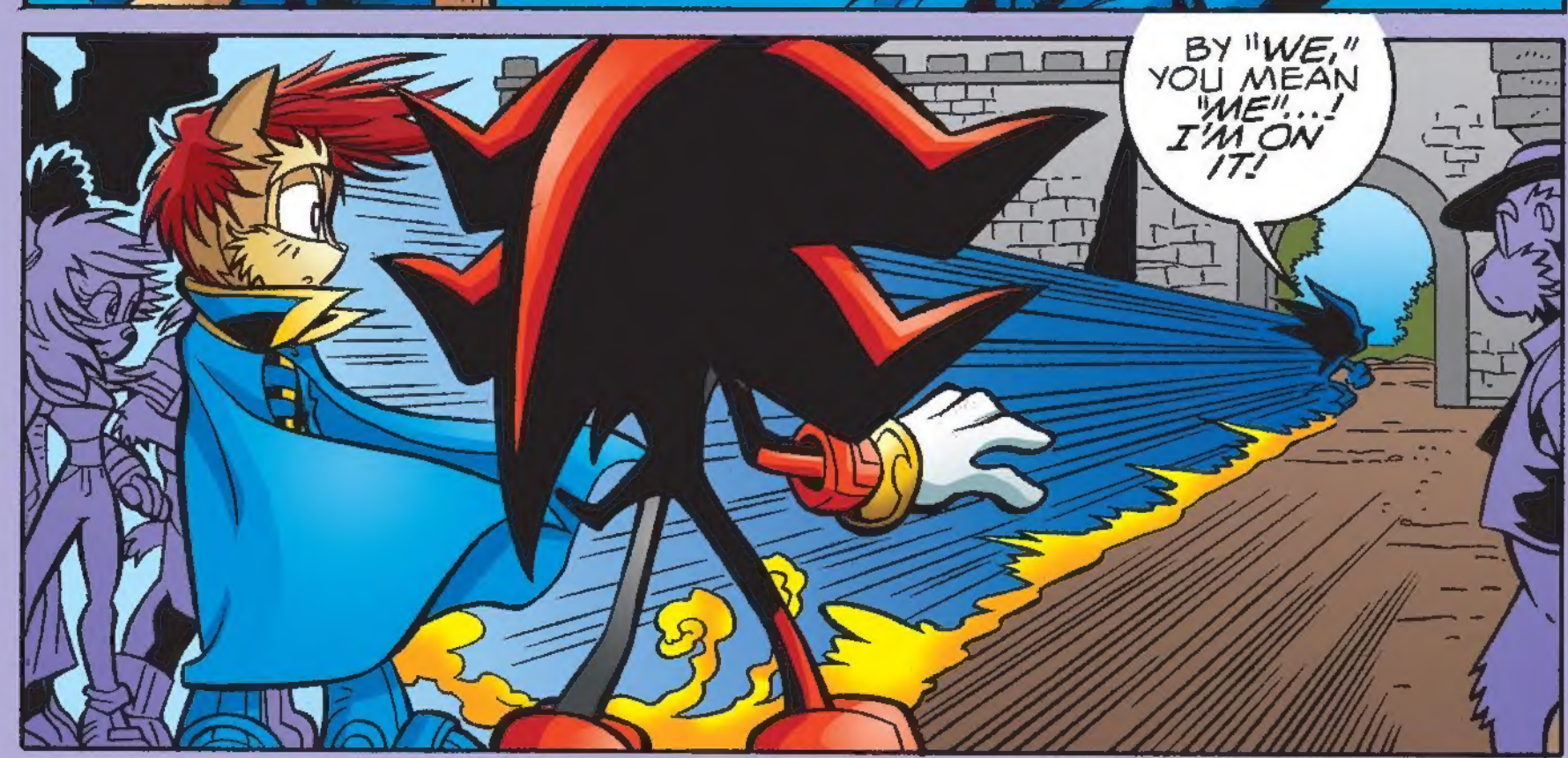


SONIC! THANK THE SOURCE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
THAT'S ABOUT ALL I'LL BE THANKFUL FOR!

I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOUR WHACKED-OUT DEFENSE PROJECT WAS EVER GREENLIGHTED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
DID ANY OF THE GENIUSES AROUND HERE EVER CONSIDER IF ANYONE COULD BREACH OUR CYBER-SECURITY MEASURES--

--SINCE OL' ROBO-BUTT WOULD BE JUST THE MEGALO-MANIAC TO DO SO?!
JUST BECAUSE HE CREATED METAL SONIC MANY TIMES OVER DOESN'T MEAN HE OWNS THE PATENT!


AND IT DOESN'T GIVE ANYONE ELSE THE RIGHT TO INVOLVE ME IN THEIR CRACKPOT SCHEMES!
I WASN'T THE ONE WHO AUTHORIZED THE PROJECT!
WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER!
WE HAVE MORE URGENT MATTERS TO ATTEND!


BY "WE," YOU MEAN "ME"...! I'M ON IT!

THIS HERO-JAZZ CAN BE A PAIN AT TIMES! JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME-ONE ELSE LEAD THE CHARGE!
AWW, WHO AM I KIDDING?
WHO ELSE COULD SMACK DOWN REPLICAS OF THE REAL DEAL--
--OTHER THAN THE REAL DEAL?
ONE BLUE BLUR COMING THROUGH!!! YOU SIMULATED-SONICS ARE GOING DOWN!
KLANG!
CORRECTION: IT IS YOU WHO FACES ELIMINATION--
ZZAPP
--ALONG WITH ANY WHO THREATEN THE KINGDOM'S EXISTENCE!
WHICH KINGDOM IS THAT? LAST I HEARD, THIS IS ONE YOU'RE PROGRAMMED TO PROTECT!

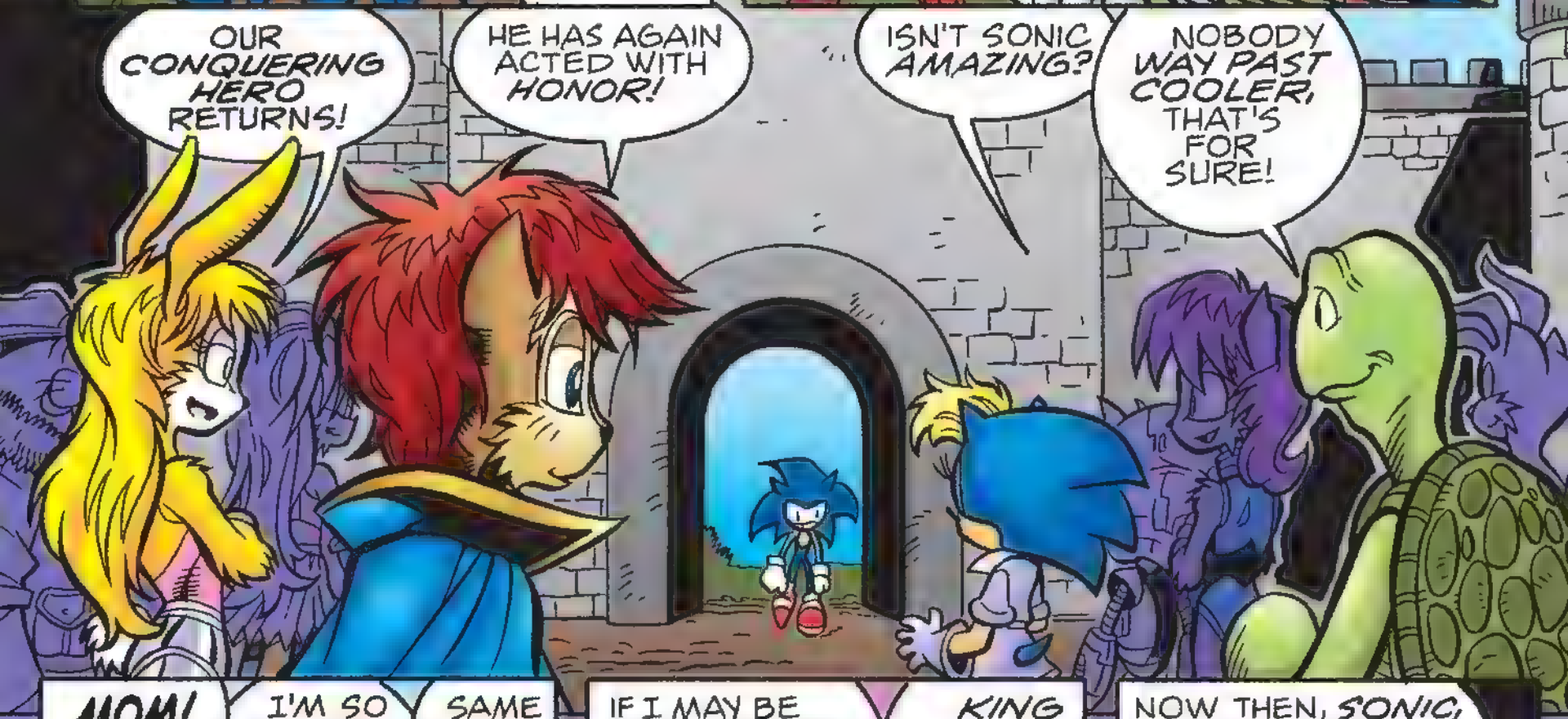
KLONG
IMPOSSIBLE! OUR PROGRAMMING IS IMPERVIOUS TO TAMPERING!
SAYS YOU--
CAN'T MESS AROUND--
ZOOOOOM
--AS THERE'RE WAY TOO MANY OF THEM TO GO ONE-ON-ONE WITH!
NO TELLING IF THIS'LL WORK--
--MAYBE SOMETHING NEW WILL THROW THEM OFF!
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW?

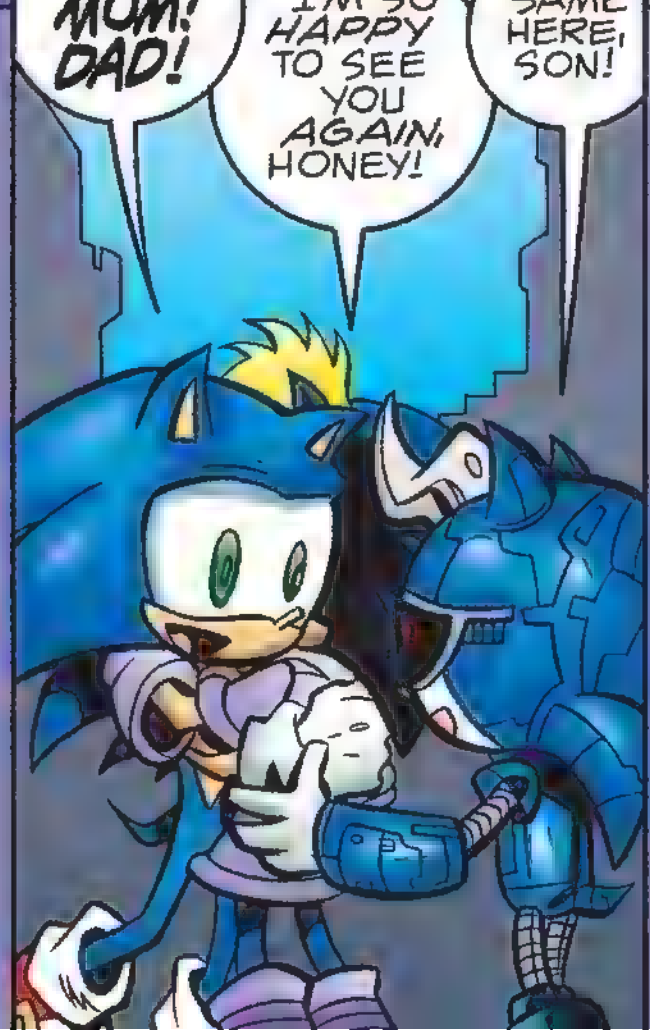
--IF THIS SCRAMBLES THEIR CIRCUITS ENOUGH--
--ALONG WITH THE FALL--
--THAT MAY BE ENOU--
UGH!
WHAAM
WE WERE MODELLED TO SERVE IN YOUR STEAD --AND YET YOU ATTACK US!
YEAH--GASP-- MUST BE THOSE MISPLACED PRIORITIES OF YOURS!
THEY'RE OVERWHELMING SONIC! THOUGH WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES--
--I CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO FALL THIS WAY!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
ALL I DID WAS RAISE MY HAND--
--AND NOW ALL ARE DEMOBILIZED!
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
CHAOS CONTROL ?
AND YOU ARE ...?
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA OF THE CHAOTIX. YOU DON'T NEED ANY INTRODUCTION, SHADOW.
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF CHAOS CONTROL, KNUCKLES. I REQUIRE A CHAOS EMERALD TO PERFORM THAT TECHNIQUE.
NOT IF YOU DREW THE POWER FROM THE CHAOS FORCE.
BUT ONLY US GUARDIANS HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL SOME OF THAT POWER.
I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM FOR SURE.
CAN WE TURN DOWN THE VOLUME? OOH, MY HEAD...
FINISHED REST-ING, BLUE HEDGE-HOG?
SHUT UP, FAKER.

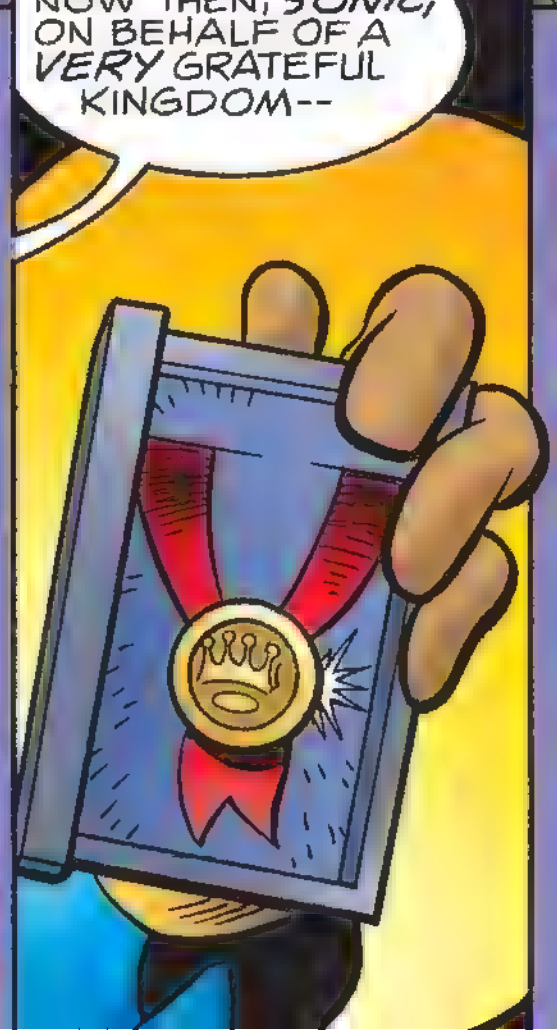
YOU TWO KEEP GOSSIPING, WE'RE OFF TO SAVE THE DAY!
I'M READY, ALREADY!

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, SHADOW! I OWE YOU NOTHING.
THEN WE'RE EVEN, SONIC.


OUR CONQUERING HERO RETURNS!
HE HAS AGAIN ACTED WITH HONOR!
ISN'T SONIC AMAZING?
NOBODY WAY PAST COOLER, THAT'S FOR SURE!


MOM! DAD!
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HONEY!
SAME HERE, SON!

IF I MAY BE PERMITTED TO INTERRUPT, I HAVE A FEW WORDS TO SAY ON BEHALF OF THE KINGDOM!
KING ELIAS! BUT OF COURSE, SIRE!


NOW THEN, SONIC, ON BEHALF OF A VERY GRATEFUL KINGDOM--

--I'D LIKE TO *AWARD* YOU OUR *MEDAL OF HONOR* FOR SERVICES RENDERED ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

I *COULDN'T* HAVE TAKEN THEM *ALL* OUT, YOUR HIGHNESS! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST--

NONSENSE! SIR CHARLES'S VIDEO LOGS HAVE A *COMPLETE RECORD* OF *YOUR* ACTIONS! FURTHERMORE, YOU ARE NOW HEREBY ASSIGNED THE *RANK* OF *GENTLEMAN-AT-ARMS,* ALONG WITH ALL ITS ATTENDANT *OBLIGATIONS* AND *PRIVILEGES!*

I'LL *EXPLAIN* WHAT THAT MEANS *LATER!* RIGHT NOW, I BELIEVE *CELEBRATIONS* ARE IN ORDER! CONGRATULATIONS, SONIC!

WELL, I--I'VE NO CLUE WHAT TO SAY--

I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS...

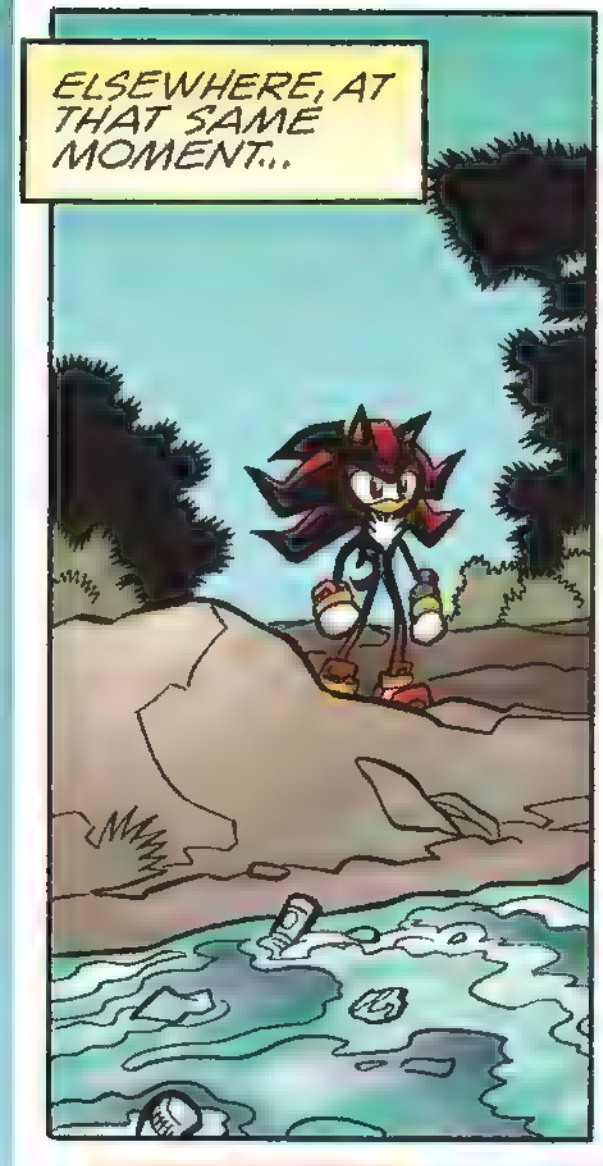
...DON'T YOU, HON?

YES, HARD AS IT IS TO ADMIT!

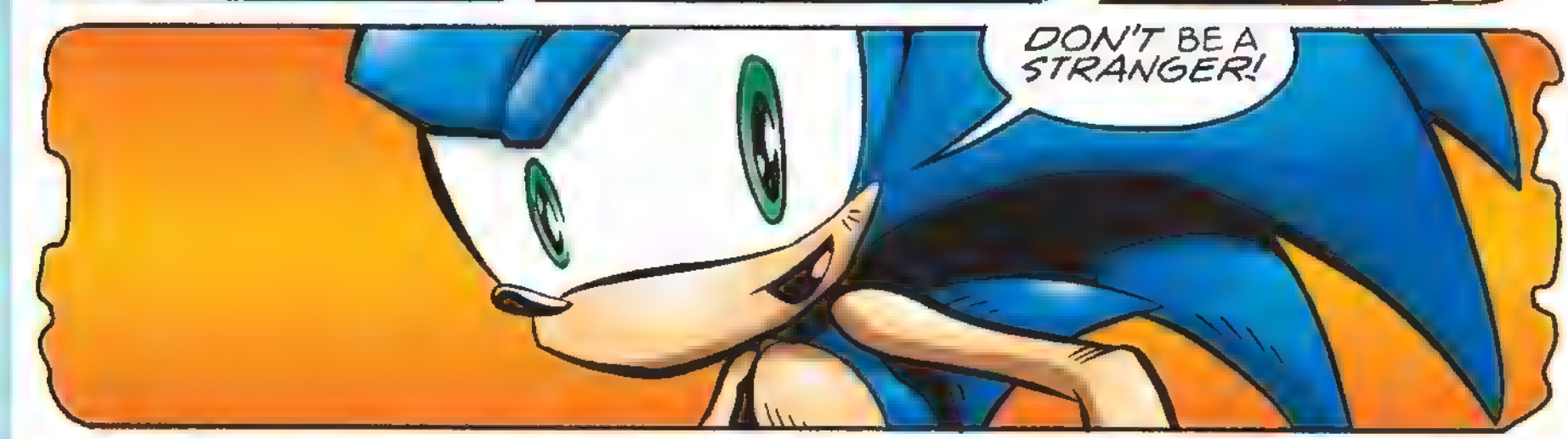
HE'S NOT OUR *LITTLE ONE* ANY MORE!

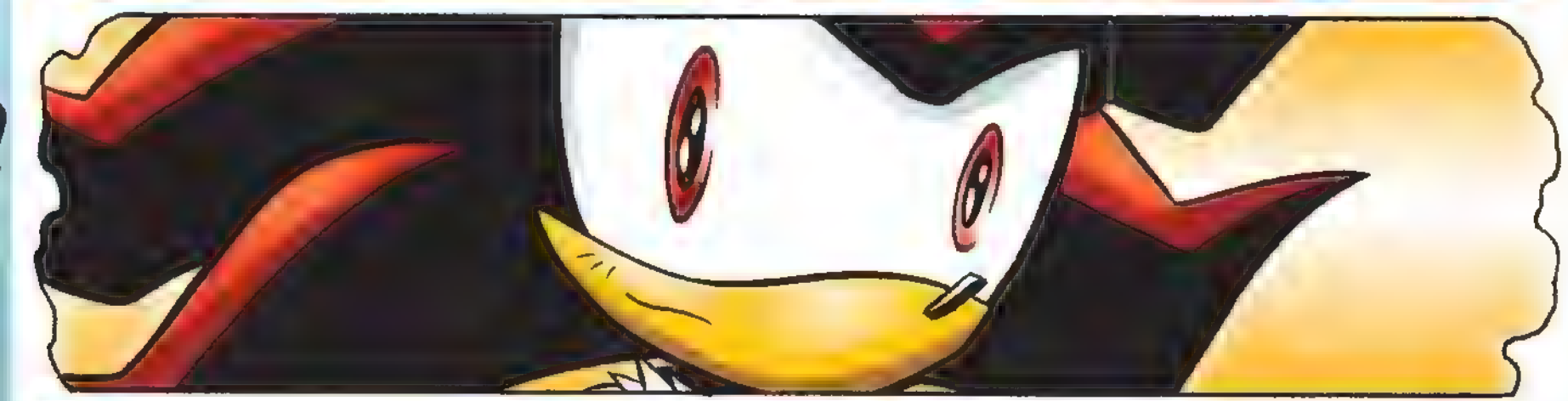
I KNOW! HE'S OUR *LITTLE ONE-AT-ARMS!*

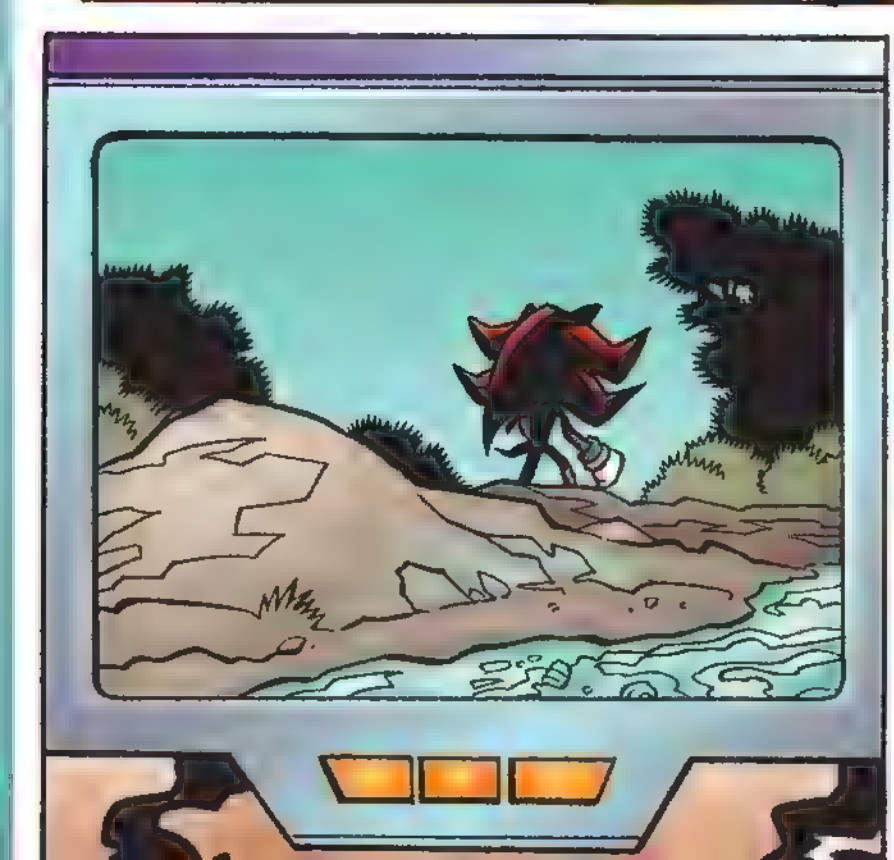
SO WHO WANTS TO **PARTY?!!!**


ELSEWHERE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

HEY, FAKER!


DON'T BE A STRANGER!





YOU HAVE YOUR SECRETS, SHADOW--AND WE HAVE OURS! BETTER THEY SHOULD STAY THAT WAY!
THE END ...FOR NOW!

GOOD MORNING, FATHER.

BAH! WHAT'S SO *GOOD* ABOUT IT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, I CAN'T RECALL A GOOD MORNING WITHIN *RECENT* MEMORY!

YOUR RESEARCH CONTINUES AND YOUR LIEUTENANTS CONTINUE MAINTAINING YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

MY *LIEUTENANTS?!!*

SNIVELING WORMS LOOKING TO STAB ME IN THE BACK AT THE FIRST CHANCE --

-- JUST LIKE THAT *TREACHEROUS WEASEL, SNIVELY!!!*

CAN YOU *IMAGINE? BETRAYING* ME TO MY *WORST* ENEMY IN ALL THE WORLD?!

THE DESPICABLE DR. ROBOTNIK

INSIDIOUS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY *KEN PENDERS*
COLORED BY *JOSH AND AIMEE RAY*

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT AN EXAMPLE SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING LOYALTY OF THOSE STILL SERVING YOU?

BEYOND QUESTION --

-- AND *PAINFULLY* SO!

BUT THE ONE I DESIRE *ABOVE ALL* TO SEE THE *UTMOST EXCRUTIATING PUNISHMENT* INFLICTED UPON IS CURRENTLY BEYOND MY REACH!

THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS OTHERWISE, FATHER.

PERHAPS THIS VISUAL LOG OF EXPERIMENT X-51 WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.

AHH, *YES!* I DIDN'T REALIZE *RECREATING METAL SONIC* COULD GET *SO* OUT OF HAND!

AS YOU CAN SEE, A SAMPLE OF NANITES WAS DRAWN FOR EXAMINATION. *

BOOMER

EGADS! THOSE FOOLS CAN NOW ACCESS *MY* TECHNOLOGY!

* VISUAL LOG SEQUENCES OF EVENTS AS SEEN IN SONIC #152.

IT'S HARD ENOUGH STAYING *AHEAD* WITHOUT HANDING OVER *PROPRIETARY* INFORMATION ON A *PLATTER!*

TURNABOUT CAN ALSO BE FAIR PLAY, EVEN WHEN UNINTENTIONAL.

THIS VIDEO STREAM WAS RECEIVED WHEN THE NANITES WERE TRANSMITTING TO THEIR OWN KIND ELSEWHERE.

YOU MEAN THEY *COMMUNICATE* AMONGST EACH OTHER DESPITE WHATEVER *DISTANCE* OF SEPARATION?

AFFIRMATIVE.

NOT EVEN A RADICAL CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT COULD DISRUPT THE SIGNAL.

FREEZE FRAME THE *AERIAL* ACROBATICS!

SINCE *WHEN* COULD NANITES *DEFY* GRAVITY?

JET ENGINES ARE BUT ONE OUT OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF CONFIGURATIONS THE NANITES ARE CAPABLE OF.

SO THE *SAMPLE* ROTOR *EXTRACTED* IS NOW LINKED TO THE TURTLE *SYMBIOTICALLY?*

AFFIRMATIVE.

NOW SWITCHING TO REAL-TIME TRANS-MISSION.

A CORRIDOR!!

WHY ON MOBIUS WOULD I BE *INTERESTED* IN THAT?!!

IT'S WHERE THE CORRIDOR LEADS TO THAT MAY INTEREST YOU.

SIR CHARLES AND HIS BROTHER *JULES!*

WHAT COULD THEY BE UP TO? CAN WE GET *SOUND?*

JUST PRESS YOUR PALM DOWN ON THE *SCANNER* HERE WHILE LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD INTO THE CAMERA IN FRONT OF YOU, TOMMY!

AUDIO ON.

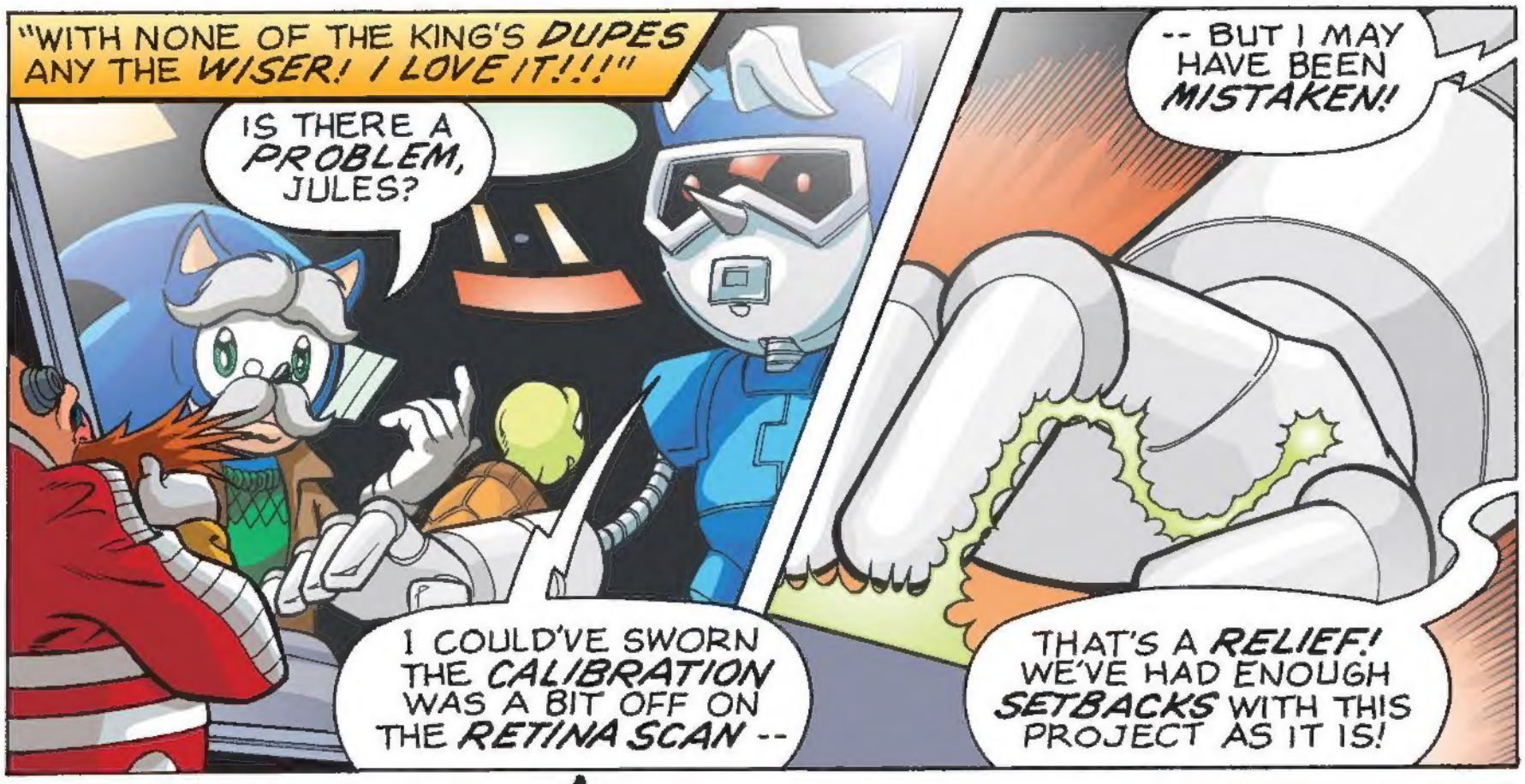
"WHAT JUST HAPPENED, A.D.A.M.? I DON'T UNDERSTAND."

"I TRANSMITTED A SIGNAL, FATHER, TRIGGERING A GROWTH SPURT IN THE NANITES.

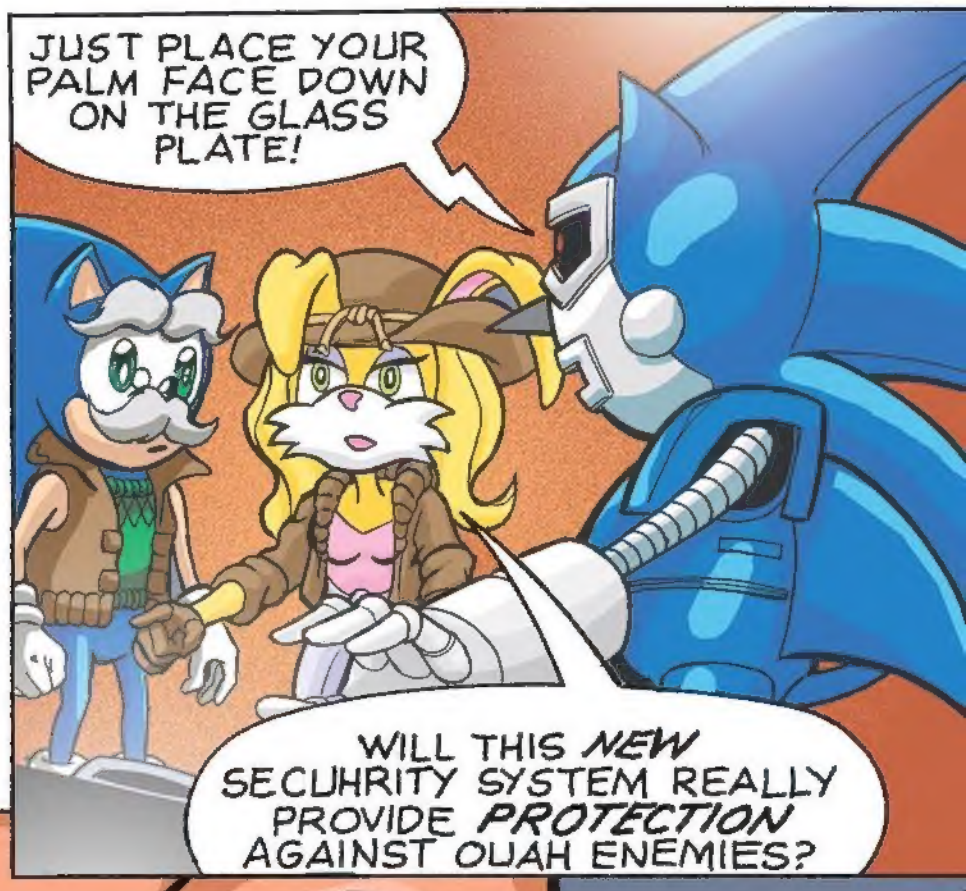
"THE COMPUTER CONSOLE BEING A NATURAL SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS ENAB-LING THE NANITES TO MULTIPLY AND GROW."

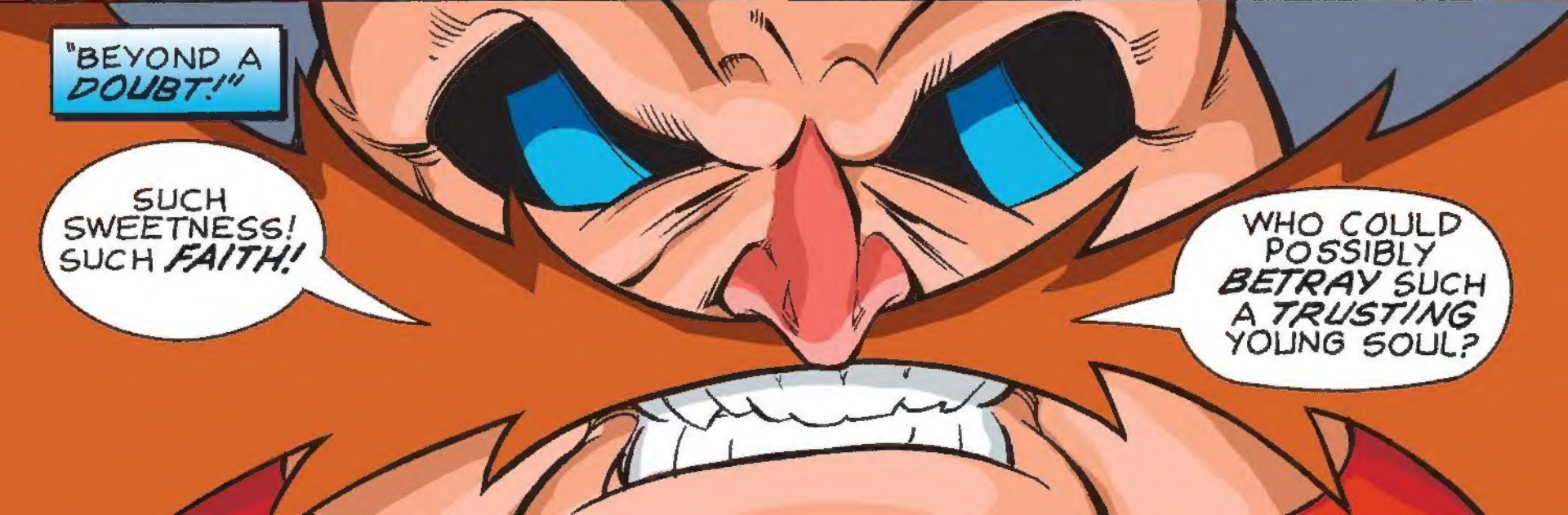
"BUT FOR WHAT *PURPOSE..?*"

AHA!!!
HOW BRILLIANT!! HOW UTTERLY DEVIOUS!!!
YOU'RE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE NANITES, AND THUS MANIPULATE THEM TO DO MY BIDDING!!


"WITH NONE OF THE KING'S DUPES ANY THE WISER! I LOVE IT!!!"
IS THERE A PROBLEM, JULES?
I COULD'VE SWORN THE CALIBRATION WAS A BIT OFF ON THE RETINA SCAN --
-- BUT I MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN!
THAT'S A RELIEF! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH SETBACKS WITH THIS PROJECT AS IT IS!

SO THE NANITES HAVE INFILTRATED THE ROBOTICIZED HEDGEHOG'S SYSTEM?
AFFIRMATIVE.
NEXT! STEP RIGHT UP, BUNNIE!


JUST PLACE YOUR PALM FACE DOWN ON THE GLASS PLATE!
WILL THIS NEW SECURITY SYSTEM REALLY PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST OUAH ENEMIES?


"BEYOND A DOUBT!"
SUCH SWEETNESS! SUCH FAITH!
WHO COULD POSSIBLY BETRAY SUCH A TRUSTING YOUNG SOUL?

THEN SHE IS NOT TO BE INFILTRATED?

ON THE *CONTRARY*, A.D.A.M.!

SHE'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL *AGENT* WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT! SEE TO IT!

THIS IS ALMOST *TOO* EASY! LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM *SNIVELY!*

YOU'RE CERTAIN WE'RE NOT DEPLETING OUR *SUPPLY* OF NANITES?

NEGATIVE. THE MICROCHIPS AND ELECTRICAL CHARGES FROM THE MAIN CONSOLE PROVIDE MORE THAN ENOUGH SUSTENANCE FOR THE NANITES.

WAIT! THE RAB-BOT SEEMS TO BE GETTING *WOOZY!* THIS COULD BE A *PROBLEM!*

OF ALL THE @#&%!&$ -- !!

IF YOU MESSED THIS ONE UP, A.D.A.M., I'LL REPROGRAM YOU INTO A *STEMBOLT REPLICATOR!*

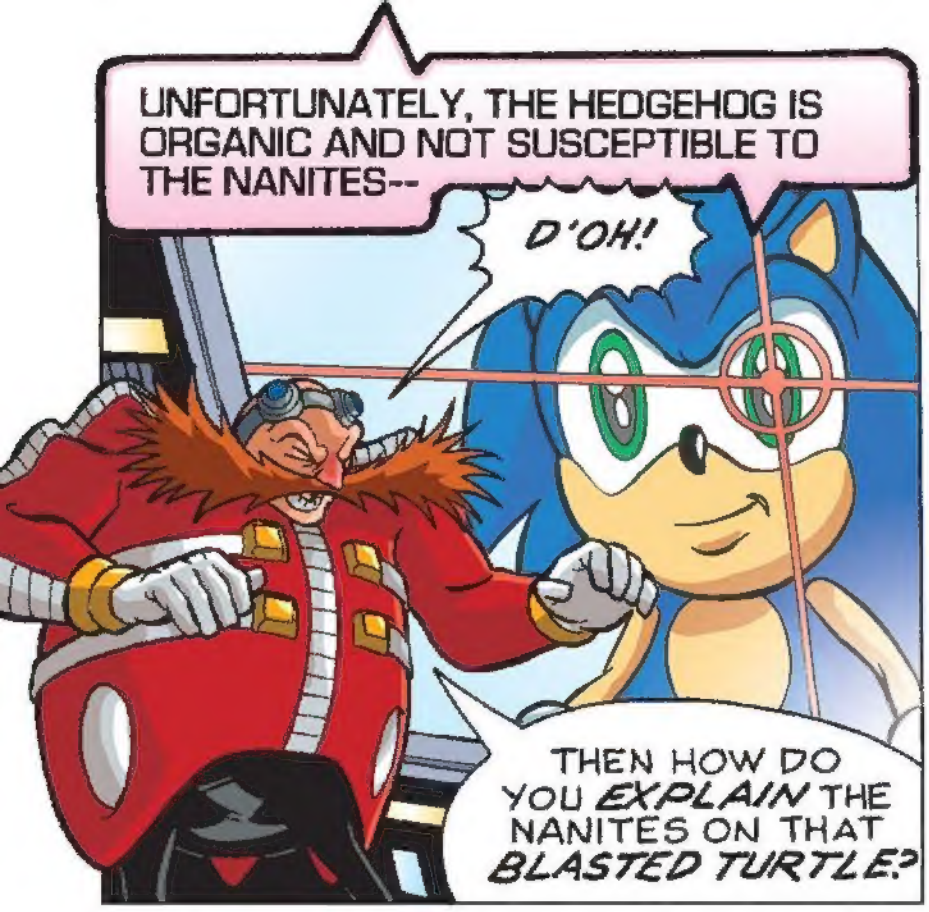
DON'T WORRY, SIR CHARLES! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

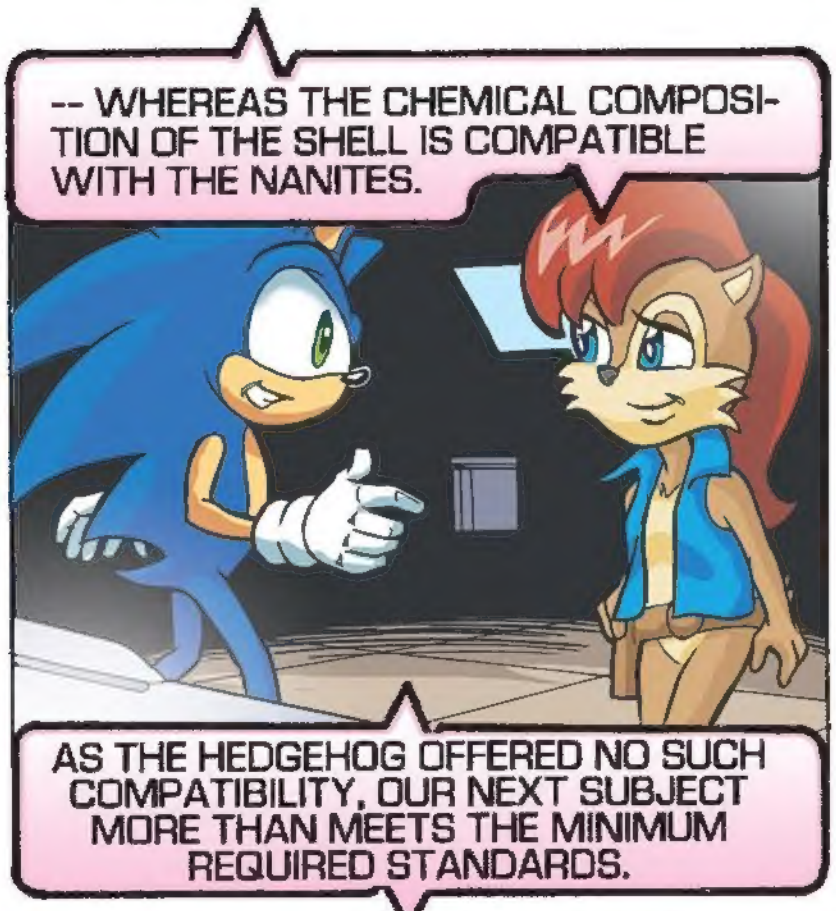
WHO SAYS ALL NEWS IS *BAD* NEWS?

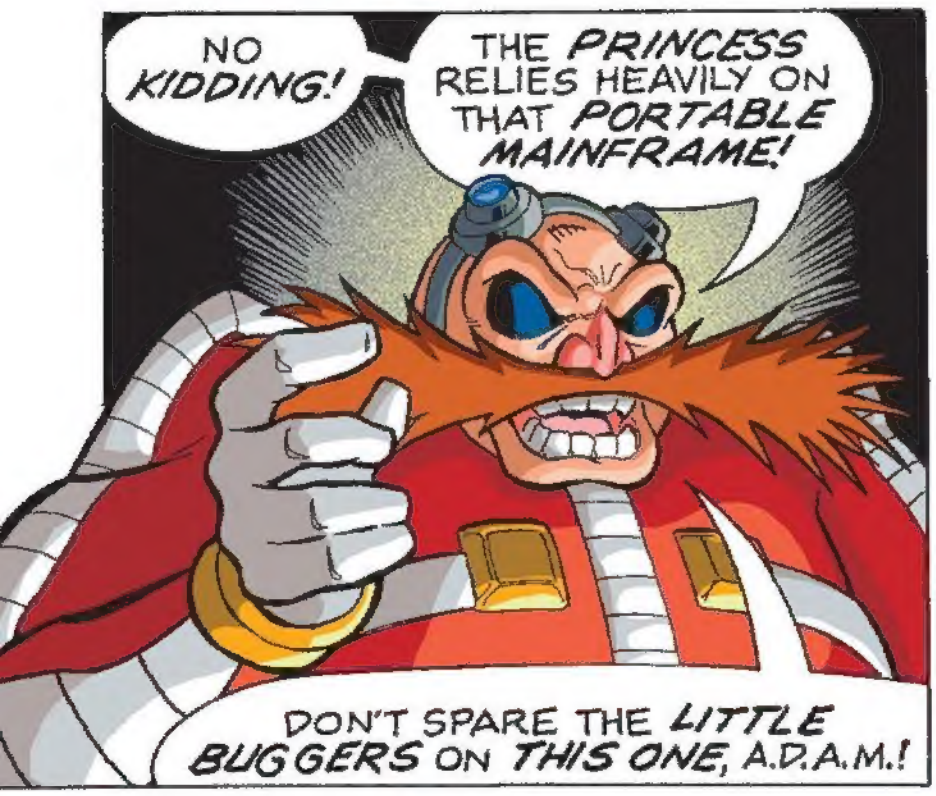
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE *WHO'S* UP *NEXT!*

NOW WE'RE TALKING!!!

BY THE TIME I'M DONE WITH *HIM*, IT'LL GIVE *NEW* MEANING TO THE WORD *"TWISTED"!*


UNFORTUNATELY, THE HEDGEHOG IS ORGANIC AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE NANITES--
D'OH!
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE NANITES ON THAT BLASTED TURTLE?


-- WHEREAS THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE SHELL IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NANITES.
AS THE HEDGEHOG OFFERED NO SUCH COMPATIBILITY, OUR NEXT SUBJECT MORE THAN MEETS THE MINIMUM REQUIRED STANDARDS.


NO KIDDING!
THE PRINCESS RELIES HEAVILY ON THAT PORTABLE MAINFRAME!
DON'T SPARE THE LITTLE BUGGERS ON THIS ONE, A.D.A.M.!

"YES! EXCELLENT, A.D.A.M.!"

THE PLAN IS PERFECT! FINALLY...
I'M BACK IN BUSINESS!!!
I'LL NOW KNOW EVERYTHING THEY DO AND SAY --
-- AND WHEN THEY LEAST EXPECT IT, THAT'S THE TIME I'LL STRIKE!
HAHAHAHAHA